

UNIVERSITY of  
STIRLING



REDEFINE

WITH A  
MASTERS

MSc/PGDIP/PGCERT  
APPLIED PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

REDEFINE AT STIRLING

## ABOUT THE COURSE

The course is designed to suit the needs of busy practitioners and managers in social work, health and allied professions. Part-time modular study enables students to pursue post-qualifying accreditation alongside full-time employment.

The modular structure enables students to design an individual course of study or to follow one of the specialist pathways.

## RELEVANCE TO PRACTICE

A blend of direct teaching and structured learning facilitates study which is directly related to contemporary practice. The application of theory to relevant issues in social care services is core to the taught course and assessment is by means of practice-based assignments and presentations. The course reflects new directions in policy and practice and emerging thinking from the field.

Modules within the MSc Applied Professional Studies course have been developed in partnership with sponsoring agencies to ensure that they meet the learning requirements of contemporary practice. For example, together with NSPCC Scotland, we have developed a certificate focusing on advanced practice skills.

## RECOGNITION BY PROFESSIONAL BODY

All the courses are recognised by Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) as relevant post-qualifying awards and the Management and Leadership in Social Services Certificate is formally approved as a recognised qualification for registered managers.

## STRONG LINKS TO ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH

The teaching team includes academic researchers with a strong track record of research. This includes active involvement in practitioner research and projects involving people who use services as co-researchers. The team promotes innovation and excellence to transform social work care practice at personal, local, national and international levels to improve the lives of people using services and those who support them.

## PATHWAYS

### Part-time study:

- Postgraduate Certificate: one year of study (60 credits)
- Postgraduate Diploma: two years of study (120 credits)
- MSc: three years of study (180 credits)





## MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP IN SOCIAL SERVICES

This pathway is suitable for social services managers in Scotland keen to pursue their professional development and work towards a formal management qualification. This pathway supports critical analysis and the development of reflective supervision, leadership and management of people and resources. It also addresses the complex array of organisational and human issues that need to be balanced when supervising and managing front-line staff.

## ADULT SERVICES, SUPPORT AND PROTECTION

This pathway is suitable for frontline staff working in adult services who need to understand and work with the array of policy and legislation aimed at supporting and protecting adults who are at risk of harm. The pathway also addresses the shifting balance of power within a vision of adult social care which sees service users and professionals as co-producers.

Contemporary research points to the importance of bringing together rather than separating the dual agendas of self-directed support and protection from harm. The dilemmas involved in balancing risk, rights and autonomy and the inherent tensions of personalisation in the context of cuts in public services are central to this course.

## SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE EDUCATION

This pathway is suitable for experienced professionals, working in social work services, who want to develop their knowledge and skill base in order to take on the Practice Education role with social work students. Nominated by their employing agency, candidates will be mentored by an agency-based practice assessor and supported by an academic tutor. Candidates will develop foundation knowledge and skills for effective practice education before going on to enhance their understanding of how people learn and explore the role of professional supervision. Candidates will also undertake the role of Practice Educator with a student social worker on placement and will demonstrate their learning around evidence-informed assessment of practice.



## CHILD WELFARE AND PROTECTION

This pathway is suitable for frontline staff working in child welfare and protection including those in social work, health, education, the police and associated disciplines. With a focus on improving outcomes for children, this course tackles core challenges in practice including assessment, planning and effective intervention. It also builds professional knowledge and competence sequentially through consideration of key frameworks (such as attachment theory and resilience), critical reflection on multi-professional judgement and decision-making, through to examination of the latest research and practice developments in care planning and intervention.

## ADVANCED PRACTICE SKILLS

Delivered by the University of Stirling, the NSPCC and a range of experts from across Scotland, this pathway has been introduced to enable students to develop advanced skills in child welfare and protection practice with children and families. Unlike most other postgraduate courses in the field, this pathway has an emphasis on gaining practical skills and experience. In particular, it is designed to bridge an existing gap in practice skills development, and students will gain knowledge, skills and experience for working within the most challenging settings.



*The University of Stirling is great for students who are studying part-time or undertaking distance learning in Applied Professional Studies. There are loads of e-books available and the staff are very helpful. Completing the course has increased my professional competence and confidence.*

**LORNA CANAVAN**

PGDip Applied Professional Studies - Child Welfare and Protection

# COURSE PATHWAYS

Choose an area of study which matches your interests and practice experience. Successful completion of 60 credits equates to a Postgraduate Certificate:

| Adult Services, Support and Protection                     | Child Welfare and Protection   | Management and Leadership in Social Services   | Social Work Practice Education                                      | Advanced Practice Skills (entry requirements)  |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| Citizenship and Self-Directed Support (20 credits) APSPG12 | Understanding Children and Young People's Needs (20 credits) APSPG01       | Leadership and Management (40 credits) APSPG07 | Foundations for Effective Practice Education (20 credits) APSPG14   | Knowledge and Skills for Understanding Infant/Parent Attachment (20 credits) APSPG04 |
| Adult Support and Protection (40 credits) APSPG11          | Understanding Children and Young People's Experiences (20 credits) APSPG02 | Professional Supervision (20 credits) APSPG08  | Pedagogy and Supervision in Practice Education (20 credits) APSPG15 | Evidence-Informed Interventions (20 credits) APSPG05                                 |
|  | Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People (20 credits) APSPG03      |  | Evidence-Informed Assessment of Practice (20 credits) APSPG16       | Working with Complex Families and Systems (20 credits) APSPG06                       |

Progress to Postgraduate Diploma level study and complete a further 60 credits, either continuing within a specialist pathway or choosing alternative modules. In addition to the options detailed above, you can also select from designated second-year modules:

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| Working with Risk and Uncertainty (40 credits) APSPG13 | Leading in Partnership and Collaboration (20 credits) APSPG09 | Leading Change, Innovation and Improvement (40 credits) APSPG10 |
|--|---|---|

To complete an MSc Applied Professional Studies students undertake a final dissertation module which will include teaching on research methods.

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| Dissertation module (60 credits) APSPG18 |
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**NB:** Students with relevant previous study may be awarded credit for recognised prior learning (RPL) and should, in the first instance, discuss options with the Course Director. This can include an RPL award for post-qualifying study at SCQF Level 10 (Graduate Certificate) when this is combined with completion of a Professional Portfolio.

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| Portfolio: Application of Learning to Practice (40 credits) APSPG17 |
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Or choose your own pathway for a Masters, Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Professional Studies:

| Year One   |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| Understanding Children and Young People's Needs (20 credits) APSPG01       | Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People (20 credits) APSPG03 | Professional Supervision (20 credits) APSPG08     | Citizenship and Self-Directed Support (20 credits) APSPG12        | Pedagogy and Supervision in Practice Education (20 credits) APSPG15 |
| Understanding Children and Young People's Experiences (20 credits) APSPG02 | Leadership and Management (40 credits) APSPG07                        | Adult Support and Protection (40 credits) APSPG11 | Foundations for Effective Practice Education (20 credits) APSPG14 | Evidence-Informed Assessment of Practice (20 credits) APSPG16       |

| Year Two   |  |   |  |   |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| Understanding Children and Young People's Needs (20 credits) APSPG01       | Knowledge and Skills for Understanding Infant/Parent Attachment (20 credits) APSPG04 | Professional Supervision (20 credits) APSPG08                   | Adult Support and Protection (40 credits) APSPG11          | Foundations for Effective Practice Education (20 credits) APSPG14   |
| Understanding Children and Young People's Experiences (20 credits) APSPG02 | Evidence-Informed Interventions (20 credits) APSPG05                                 | Leading in Partnership and Collaboration (20 credits) APSPG09   | Citizenship and Self-Directed Support (20 credits) APSPG12 | Pedagogy and Supervision in Practice Education (20 credits) APSPG15 |
| Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People (20 credits) APSPG03      | Working with Complex Families and Systems (20 credits) APSPG06                       | Leading Change, Innovation and Improvement (40 credits) APSPG10 | Working with Risk and Uncertainty (40 credits) APSPG13     | Evidence-Informed Assessment of Practice (20 credits) APSPG16       |
|  |  | Leadership and Management (40 credits) APSPG07                  |  |   |
| Year Three   |  |   |  |   |
|  |  |   |  | Dissertation module (60 credits) APSPG18                            |

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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